

# Exhibit B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

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IN RE: VALSARTAN, LOSARTAN, AND IRBESARTAN PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION	CIVIL ACTION NUMBER:  1:19-md-02875-RBK-KW  STATUS CONFERENCE (Via Zoom)
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Monday, March 29, 2021  
Commencing at 3:00 p.m.

B E F O R E: SPECIAL MASTER,  
THE HONORABLE THOMAS I. VANASKIE

A P P E A R A N C E S:

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography;  
transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.

1 apologize.

2           My concern is an obvious one, which is, if counsel  
3 knows that I get a couple shots to ask a direct question and  
4 the witness just has to keep just answering evasively and  
5 eventually I have to move on and it's a foundational fact  
6 that's important, that really is very disruptive and it leaves  
7 me with no, you know, no way through that. It leaves me  
8 without testimony that we need in order to progress the  
9 testimony, either lay a foundation or whatever.

10           I mean, I understand you're saying, if it's evasive,  
11 it may be deemed admitted later. But, you know, my view is  
12 going to be -- and I'm trying to avoid this, believe it or  
13 not, that the witnesses -- the normal motion would be I want  
14 to continue the deposition, and for the benefit of the  
15 defense, that motion is not going to be heard on an expedited  
16 basis.

17           We're not going to start bombing Your Honor with  
18 motions to compel, you know, we're going to try to wait until  
19 some critical mass point, and if there's -- then evaluate  
20 what's necessary. So I'm trying to avoid that. I just  
21 wouldn't want this to become a tactic, because if I have to  
22 cut it off, they can block our ability to get important  
23 testimony, just by acting that they don't understand the  
24 question or answering evasively and we never get what we need  
25 and what we fairly should be able to obtain.

1 JUDGE VANASKIE: Well, I agree with you. That, you  
2 know, it could be abused, this kind of approach that I've  
3 suggested, is subject to abuse, but I think we have enough --

4 MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor --

5 JUDGE VANASKIE: Enough weapons -- please let me  
6 finish. -- enough weapons in our arsenal of sanctions to say,  
7 if that happens, it is sanctionable conduct.

8 If a witness is being told that they don't have to  
9 answer a question that clearly should be answered, I think  
10 that could be the basis for sanctions.

11 You know, I don't know like to threaten sanctions,  
12 nobody does. But I would like to get to a point where we have  
13 the matter move forward much more smoothly than I saw in the  
14 excerpts that were given to me, that accompanied  
15 Mr. Goldberg's letter and the transcript that you provided to  
16 me as well.

17 Mr. Goldberg, you wanted to be heard?

18 MR. GOLDBERG: Yeah, Your Honor, I just wanted to --  
19 and I agree with you, I think that there are really good  
20 examples in the depositions taken by the other lawyers that  
21 you can ask questions and we don't have this problem of asked  
22 and answered, and I think that, you know, we'll certainly be  
23 mindful of what Your Honor is saying and we hope that  
24 Mr. Slater will, too.

25 I think the questioning of other counsel which is